

MEMORY TESTS USING ITEM-SPECIFIC WEIGHTED  
MEMORY MEASUREMENTS AND USES THEREOF

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10       This invention relates to a method for increasing the usefulness, sensitivity and  
specificity of tests that measure memory and facets of memory, including learning,  
retention, recall and/or recognition. Specifically, the sensitivity and specificity of such  
tests are enhanced by selectively weighting the value of specific items recalled by the test  
subject, either by weighting such items within any specific testing trial or across  
15       numerous testing trials. Also disclosed are various methods of reducing ceiling effects in  
memory tests. The invention also provides improved tests which employ item-specific  
weighting for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia characterized by  
memory impairment, as well as a method of screening for and evaluating the efficacy of  
potential therapeutics directed to the treatment of such dementia.